

Tour of May 31 to June 27, 1969.

Date: July 2, 1969.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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The visitor is c. 20 years old, a student of art. She has a cousin studying in Kiev with whom she spent most of the visit in Ukraine. The cousin is also studying art, attempting to write poetry, and generally very active in student circles in Kiev. She is a Komsomol member, quite active, but claims that this is necessary in order to get anywhere. Like others in her group, she ~~xxxxxx~~ treats the whole thing as a bit of a joke.

1. After one day in Kiev, the visitor went to Yalta for two days. There, while sitting on a park bench she met a Russian student from Moscow, with whom she later spent most of her time in Yalta. This student told her that his father is a KGB official and that although he (the student) considers him to be a fine person and father, he disagrees with what he does and the ~~xxxxxx~~ whole concept of the KGB. Told the visitor that thousands of people in Moscow have signed various petitions to the United Nations protesting persecution of individual freedom. Told the visitor that most students in Moscow are "liberals" who oppose the regime's suppression of freedom of speech, and that there is a strong underground movement which disseminates proscribed literature, protests, petitions, etc. The student admitted to the visitor that together with ~~a friend~~ a friend, he sells icons to tourists in Yalta. Gave the visitor an icon as a present.
2. In Lviv the visitor spent most of her time with her family. With another tourist from her group, she visited Rostyslav Bratun, who took them on a tour of the old city. While visiting Lychakivs'kyi Cemetery with a cousin, she overheard a man telling some people standing in front of the Franko monument, that the poet had "called upon the stone masons to cut away at the cliff of chauvinism". The visitor later approached the man and struck up a conversation with him. Learning that she was a ~~xxxx~~ tourist from Canada, he told her that he had been an officer in the Red Army, but now was a civilian who in his spare time was studying Ukrainian history. He was very outspoken against the regime, calling the system a farce. In his opinion the people ~~xxxx~~ are ready for a revolution but they are not organized. Did not give the visitor his last name and she forgot the first name. He was in his early thirties.
3. While in Lviv, the tourist took a taxi to Drohobych and from there a bus to Truskavets where her aunt and uncle live. Both have returned from exile in Siberia and are totally anti-regime. The visitor had no trouble getting out of town and no one seemed to know that she had been away.
4. Back in Kiev, the visitor along with another member of the tourist group called on Vitaliy Korotych and together saw the sights of Kiev. Korotych, when asked about Ivan Svitlychny, told them that the latter was on the "black list" and that it might be better not to meet with him or write to him. He told them that ~~he~~ Svitlychny had been teaching somewhere but that he had ~~been~~ lost the job on the grounds that he did not know Russian well enough.
5. The visitor visited the critic Stepan Kryzhaniwsky, taking him several Hnizdowsky prints which a friend ~~had passed on to her~~ from Canada had given her to deliver.
6. Through another visitor from the West, the visitor met Yuriy Lohvyn. Together they visited Pechers'ka Lavra and ~~xxx~~ the Sophia Cathedral. They talked mostly of art and the Bohemian life. Lohvyn expressed sorrow about the process of Russification but seemed generally more interested in art than in any political ~~processes~~ events. He asked ~~xxx~~ the visitor to send him some Eskimo prints, and gave her a number of his own prints. At present Lohvyn is working on children's books.

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7. The visitor went to the Union of Artists and there she met a young painter (still in his twenties), Ihor Stepanovych. The visitor gave him a book on Dali. Stepanovych took her to his studio and showed her some of his work. Although not particularly informed or interested in political matters, he expressed his dissatisfaction with censorship and difficulties involved in expressing himself in art as he would like to.
  
8. Through her cousin, the ~~xx~~ visitor met a young poet (22 years old) - Mykhaylo Hryhoriv. Together with Vorobyov and Kordun, Hryhoriv is considered by the students to be the best young writer around at this time. His poems have been refused for publication so far, but people pass them around in manuscript form and give him high praise. At their first ~~meeting~~ he suggested that the visitor take some of his poems to Canada, but later he thought better of it. He told her that a friend of his would take his poems to Czechoslovakia where they would be published in one of the Ukrainian publications. Hryhoriv is very much a part of the student group which is very pro-Ukrainian. They all speak Ukrainian, often correcting each other's ~~xxxx~~ grammar, get together to sing patriotic Ukrainian songs, study Ukrainian history, and make a conscious effort to preserve their "Ukrainianism". Hryhoriv, as well as the group of students in general, regard Mykola Kholodnyy as the poet of their generation. They memorize and often recite his poetry. Both Hryhoriv and the visitor's ~~xxxx~~ cousin, told the visitor that Ukrainian students in Kiev ~~of~~ meet regularly to sing patriotic songs (mostly Shevchenko's poems) on the banks of the Dniper in the evenings. These are not official meetings but they somehow draw fairly large groups, seemingly spontaneously. They also make excursions to various historic sites where they in the visitor's words "literally soak up Ukrainian history and traditions". The visitor joined one such group which had hired a bus to travel to Baturyn for a day. Not all the people knew each other personally on the bus, but everyone knew someone else. Before they set out, the driver warned them against provocative discussions, mentioning that after the last such excursion there had been some trouble ~~xxxx~~ because someone had begun a ~~family~~ fairly heated argument about politics. In Baturyn the group met an old tour guide who took them to see all the historical monuments and who gave them a lecture on Ukrainian history connected with Baturyn. The visitor noted that all those present were fascinated by the "lecture" and that there ~~xxx~~ were overtones of political opposition in what they were doing. ~~xxxxxx~~ Very few of the historical monuments in Baturyn are being preserved. People come and take bricks from the ruins to use them in their own homes.
  

Another meeting place for students is the home of Ivan Honchar, who has what could be ~~x~~ considered a private museum. The visitor went there with her cousin and Hryhoriv. There again she noted that the students who come there do so for openly patriotic reasons - they come to sing, talk about poetry and art, and to learn as much as possible about Ukrainian history and traditions.

  
9. The students have read Dzyuba's "Internationalism or Russification" and consider this their "Bible". Dzyuba himself is one of their heroes. They also like Drach, saying that he has not given in (like Korotych), and Lina Kostenko. Korotych is ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ disliked for having joined the "authorities".
  
10. At the time that the visitor was in Kiev, the Lviv Theatre imeni ~~Zankow~~ Zankowetskoyi was performing in Kiev. Although all the tickets were sold out, the visitor and her cousin managed to get to the performance of "Haydamaky". The visitor ~~xxx~~ described the audience as very receptive and obviously drawing parallels with the present situation. After the performance, the visitor met the actors from the group and

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spent that evening and the next in their company. After the first performance, the students who had attended the ~~xxx~~ play, stood on the sidewalk in front of the theatre and sang Ukrainian songs. They were joined by ~~xxxx~~ members of the Lviv Theatre company and after singing on the streets near the theatre they moved to the park along the Dnieper where they continued singing. The militia did not try to break the gathering up. Either that evening or the next, the whole group gathered at someone's home and again the conversation was mostly about things Ukrainian, literature, and the need for warding off Russification. At first the Kiev students were ~~xxxxxxx~~ wary of the Lviv group, but soon they spoke of them as "ours" and became quite outspoken about their dislike of the system ~~xxx~~ in relationship to things Ukrainian. Like Dzyuba and basing themselves on his arguments, they all quote Lenin on the nationality question and consider the present situation a perversion of what it should be.

11. At this party after the performance of "Haydamaky", the visitor met a 34-year-old journalist, Yuriy Shelest, who was much more pro-regime than any of the others. Hryhoriv told the visitor to be careful when ~~xxx~~ with Shelest because they were not "sure of him". Shelest tried to defend Russification with the argument that although Ukrainian is a beautiful and very expressive language, Russian is a world language in which one can find world renown. The students knew him and did not consider him an informer, but were careful about what they said in front of him.
12. Hryhoriv told the visitor about the May 22 Shevchenko celebration. He said that this year the demonstration was allowed by the militia but they were not allowed to place flowers on Shevchenko's monument. When the large group moved to the park to sing and recited Shevchenko's poems, the militia and plainclothesmen began driving around through the crowd in an attempt to disperse it. Two people were hurt. Some were arrested and received 15-day sentences for disturbing the peace. A large group of students joined hands and marched to the militia headquarters but this did not have any effect on the situation. Others who talked to the visitor did not mention the militia driving around, nor the arrests. Everyone seems to have his own version of the evening.
13. With her cousin and Hryhoriv, the visitor went to Vydubets'kyi Monastery. They met an old caretaker there who after some persuasion allowed them inside to see the reconstruction that was taking place there. He told them that 75% of the archives had been moved to Moscow before the fire. No one else substantiated this story, although everyone they spoke to was indignant about the fire and did not believe the official version that the fire had been caused by a short-circuit in the electrical system.
14. Although the visitor had paid for a trip to Kaniv when making her arrangements at the travel agency back in Canada, and although she made reservations for it five days before leaving Kiev, the Intourist Office kept making excuses to her that there was no room on the boat and she did not get to make the trip.
15. The visitor had no problems in the ~~Hx~~ Intourist Hotel. She stayed at the Moskva Hotel. Because she was coming in very late, she kept her key and no one asked her for it. One night (after the party with the theatre group), she did not come back to her hotel room at all, but stayed overnight with her cousin at the home of Myroslava Pilkevych. Myroslava was a fellow student of Korotych in the medical institute. She is in her middle thirties, has a 17-year-old son, and seems to be in touch with the student group to which the visitor's cousin and Hryhoriv belong. She told the visitor that Lina Kostenko has written a long poem entitled "Berestechko"

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- which has been ~~xx~~ circulating around Kiev and which everyone considers one of Lina's best poems and a masterpiece. Lina has not submitted it for publication. In Myroslava's words this is a "hot" poem.
16. The visitor was not searched at customs either entering or leaving the country. She had with her three English books which she declared at customs. She was told ~~xx~~ that she could not take the books in, but they were not taken away from her. The customs official told her that she had to bring them back out when she left the country, but he ~~xx~~ did not record any titles. She left one of the books (a book on Dali), but brought back the other two. On leaving she was checked by the same customs official, who did not open her baggage, but took a diary that she ~~xxx~~ had kept out of her purse and read it. He did not leave her presence with it.

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